

The new Food Safety Administrator would be responsible for the safety of the food supply and would fulfill that charge by implementing the registration and recordkeeping requirements of the 2002 bioterrorism law.

We would also ensure that slaughterhouses and food processing plants have procedures in place to prevent and reduce food contamination; regularly inspect domestic food facilities, with inspection frequency based on risk; centralize the authority to detain, seize, condemn, and recall food that is adulterated or misbranded; examine the food safety practices of foreign countries and work with States to impose various civil and criminal penalties for the serious violations of food safety laws; and, finally, require food producers to code their products so those products can be traced easily in the event of a food-borne illness outbreak in order to minimize the health impact of an event like the spinach contamination we presently face.

In this most recent outbreak involving spinach, 22 days passed from the time the first illness was reported to the Centers for Disease Control to the time the Food and Drug Administration issued its warning. In this area of food safety, time is of the essence. It was 3 weeks from the first serious outbreak and illness until there was a warning issued by the FDA. That is too long. Too many people were exposed to serious e-coli contamination, which can be deadly.

It is time to create a single food safety agency in this country. The Government Accountability Office has been calling for it for more than 25 years. In February 2005, a GAO report showed that Government officials in seven other high-income countries who have consolidated their food safety systems consistently state that the benefits outweigh the costs.

In a 1998 study, the National Academies of Sciences concluded that "a model food safety system should have a unified mission and a single official who is responsible for food safety at the Federal level and who has the authority and the resources to implement science-based policy in all Federal activities related to food safety."

While I was speaking, a member of my staff handed me a note informing me that we now know there has been an Illinois case which has been reported of e-coli contamination, apparently from spinach. Now 20 States across our Nation have been affected. In this Illinois case, an elderly woman has been hospitalized with kidney failure related to tainted spinach, marking the first confirmed illness in my home State of Illinois linking the outbreak of e-coli in the leafy green vegetable. Illinois State public officials announced today that this woman lives in north-central Illinois. She became ill late in August and is now hospitalized with hemolytic uremic syndrome, a form of kidney failure which can be associated with this strain of e-coli

linked to the tainted spinach, according to this report from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

This is another example, and the numbers continue to grow. We are going to do our best to contain them and to inform the public to keep the food supply safe for everyone. But we can do better in Washington. It is time to sit down with the special interest groups who have stopped this change and to come up with a reasonable bipartisan approach. There isn't anything partisan about this issue, not in any way whatsoever.

One of my closest friends from Chicago went out and bought some hamburger at a local grocery store years ago, took it home, and gave it to her 5-year-old boy. That poor boy was exposed to e-coli and died a few days later, a gruesome, horrible death. She became an advocate for food safety. She took her grief and turned it into energy to try to spare some family in the future from a similar tragedy. I hope it doesn't take the families of those who have been hit by this e-coli to form a group and push Congress into action. It is time that we took the initiative.

Factors such as emerging pathogens, an aging population at high risk for food-borne illnesses, an increasing volume of food imports, and people eating outside their homes more than ever underscore the need for change.

We need to change and shed the old bureaucratic shackles that have tied us to the overlapping and inefficient ad hoc food safety system of the past.

I urge my colleagues who are undoubtedly going to hear about this e-coli contamination and wonder how they can respond to take a look at S. 729, the Safe Food Act of 2005. Please join me in cosponsoring this landmark legislation.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERROGATION OF DETAINEES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, something happened last Thursday in the Senate Armed Services Committee that many of us tried to stop, but we were unsuccessful. The weekend is over now. All we have heard from the liberal media and from the Democrats is: Republican rebellion, Republican rebellion—it has kind of a ring to it—a rebellion against President Bush.

Well, nothing could be further from the truth. It is not a Republican rebellion against the President. It is a Democratic denial to the President of

that which he begged Congress for, and that was the ability to interrogate terrorists in order to save American lives, to use whatever methods available within the guidelines of the U.S. Supreme Court to get this stuff done.

I was at the White House when he made his presentation. I was sitting closer to him than I am to the Chair right now. I have never seen him with such an earnest plea in his heart pouring out because he wanted to have that ability to save American lives.

What passed the committee Thursday was the Democrats' program of leniency for the enemy, to be sure our interrogators don't get too aggressive with the terrorists, and also to tell the enemy what methods we will use so they can write their own manual.

Republican rebellion? Not hardly. It was the Democratic bill, and they got four Republicans to go along with it. But 100 percent of the Democrats voted for it. Nine of us Republicans on the committee spoke and voted against it—all Republicans. Clearly, this was a Democratic bill to undermine President Bush's plea to get the tools necessary to extract information from terrorists.

The High Value Terrorist Detainee Program, for all practical purposes, will stop, and I don't blame them. What rational interrogator would take a chance of going to prison, or even being executed himself, by trying to comply with the vague provisions of the Democratic bill passed out of the committee Thursday?

President Bush's bill would clearly define our Common article 3 obligations. No one is advocating torture. Torture is already illegal. The President never did that. Nobody wants to use cruel, unusual, inhumane, or degrading treatment that is against the law. It is already illegal. Nobody is advocating inhumane treatment that violates the U.S. Constitution. What the President wants is clarification under our Common article 3 obligations. The President's bill defines these obligations by equating the definition to last year's detainee treatment. The Democratic bill stays silent on this important topic. Their bill also makes it impossible in some cases to use classified information against the accused. Imagine that. We cannot use classified information against the accused when the terrorists are under our control.

It doesn't go far enough to protect our interrogators who may be accused of violating the vague definitions of article 3, especially as they pertain to degrading treatment. How do you define cruel, unusual, inhumane, or degrading treatment? Should we leave the definition up to the interpretation of the courts? Do you want to be an interrogator who is told not to worry, you will not be prosecuted even though what you are doing might be against the law? I don't. We owe it to them to clearly define the law by using the Detainee Treatment Act as the definition.

As the President said last week:

The bottom line is . . . the CIA program won't go forward if there are vague standards applied like those in Common Article 3 of the Geneva Convention.

Not having this program will put Americans at risk by leaving us unable to gather the vital intelligence needed to fight this enemy.

And where is the outrage of the American people? Do they have to "drag their naked bodies through the streets of Mogadishu" before there is a wake-up call?

I can't blame the American people. All they have heard all weekend is "Republican rebellion," and the Senate Democrats are celebrating. So they should. They won, we lost. They successfully picked off four Republicans and passed their "soft on terrorists" legislation. But the plump lady hasn't sung yet. We can still reject this on the floor this week and pass the President's bill. But to do this, Senators are going to have to hear from the folks back home—the folks who believe we need to quit worrying so much about the treatment of terrorists and get to the business of serious interrogation, even if it hurts someone's feelings. Wake up, America; she is about to sing.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE 2006 DAVIDSON FELLOWS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to 16 outstanding scholars who have recently been announced as 2006 Davidson fellows. The Davidson Institute scholarships promote and reward students under 18 years old who have undertaken invaluable projects and studies for the greater good of our country and the world. These individuals are more than deserving of this great honor. Allow me to introduce each of the scholars and describe a bit about them and their projects.

At the age of 12, Drew Petersen, of Oradell, NJ, is the youngest student ever accepted into the Manhattan School of Music Conducting Program. He hopes to become a performing pianist, composer, and conductor. Drew's project is entitled "Keeping Classical Music Alive." He hopes that he can reach audiences through his piano performances and inspire them to become more active and engaged listeners in all areas of their lives.

Shivani Sud, a 16-year-old from Durham, NC, discovered a technology to deliver chemotherapeutic molecules to cancerous cells with increased efficiency. Her project is entitled "HIV-1

Tat and IGG-Chain Secretion Based Protein Transduction: a Novel Strategy for Molecule Delivery." Shivani's research can help combat cancer and infectious diseases through more effective chemotherapy treatments. A senior at Jordan High School, Shivani hopes to eventually perform research in the field of medicine as a physician scientist.

Heather Engebretson is a 16-year-old from Tuscaloosa, AL, who views music as a method of communication and a tool for social progress. Heather's portfolio, "Music as a Universal Communication," showcases her wide range of prestigiously awarded musical talents. Heather will attend the University of Alabama this fall majoring in vocal performance, in hopes that the combination of this experience and the courses she has taken through the Johns Hopkins distance learning program will help her in someday fulfilling her dream of becoming an opera singer.

The discoveries of 17-year-old Michael Viscardi from San Diego, CA, can potentially aid in next-generation aircraft design, aerodynamics, medical imaging, astronomy, heat flow and fluid dynamics. Michael's project, "On the Solution of the Dirichlet Problem with Rational Holomorphic Boundary Data," portrays his solution of the thermal equilibrium of a heated metal plate. Michael will attend Harvard and the New England Conservatory in the fall, majoring in mathematics and violin performance respectively, and I have no doubt that he has the potential to become both a successful mathematics professor and a professional violinist.

As a 17-year-old woman from Austin, TX, Stephanie Chen has already established herself as an award-winning musician. Stephanie explores each piece in her piano portfolio, "A Musical Painting," by creating images in her mind then, in her performance, conveying this passion to the audience. Stephanie is entering her senior year at Westwood High School and would like to pursue medical studies in college and play the piano professionally.

Kyle Dacuyan is a 16-year-old young man from Sterling, VA, with a passion for writing. Kyle illustrates that he is able to empathize with other viewpoints throughout his portfolio entitled "What Have You Been, Where Have You Gone." Kyle's work examines familial relationships, complexities and oddities, and exhibits his unflinchingly honest look at pride, love, and social class. As he enters his senior year at Potomac Falls High School, Kyle hopes to continue his lifelong passion for writing through his pursuit of college degrees in English and writing. Kyle also hopes to someday teach at the college level.

Seventeen-year-old Varun Kumar, of Bellaire, TX, is determined to improve diagnostics in the field of medicine through more effective magnetic resonance imaging, MRI. The implications

of Varun's research, found in his portfolio entitled "Novel Properties in Europium DOTA—tetramide Complex for use in MRI Contrast Agent," could provide a more comprehensive and less invasive form of diagnosis in almost every field of medicine. Varun is a recent graduate of Bellaire High School and will be attending Rice University in the fall. He plans to major in biochemistry and pursue a career in medicine or medical research, and I wish him the very best of luck.

Sheela Krishnan is a 17-year-old young woman from Suffren, NY, who analyzed *Paenibacillus larvae*, the bacterium that causes American foulbrood disease, AFB, a fatal disease that attacks honeybee larvae. Sheela created a safe, non-invasive and inexpensive preventative measure to protect honeybees in vivo from AFB. Sheela portrays her work in her portfolio entitled "Isolation and Characterization of a Potential Probiotic Cocktail for the Control of American Foulbrood in Domestic Honeybees." Sheela is a recent high school graduate and will be attending Brown University as a member of the 8-year liberal medical education program. She hopes to major in both anthropology and biology and then go on to become a doctor.

The research of 17-year-old Adam Solomon, of Bellmore, NY, can help unlock clues about stellar evolution and formation, the history of our galaxy, and the formation of planetary systems. Displayed in his portfolio entitled "The Effects of Age on Brown Dwarf Spectral Features in the Near-Infrared" is Adam's creation of an analytical tool for estimating a brown dwarf's age and mass. Adam will attend Yale University where he plans to major in astronomy and physics and hopes to move on to the University of Cambridge for a master's then on to Caltech or Harvard for a doctorate degree.

At the age of 17, Yi Sun, of San Jose, CA, applied combinatorial mathematics to derive a formula for the expected winding number of a random walk on a unit lattice. Scientists can use this research to predict how many times the polymer will coil around an obstacle, or rod, thus, indicating the strength of the polymer. Yi's astounding research is displayed in his portfolio entitled, "Combinatorics: On the Expected Winding Number of a Random Walk on the Unit Lattice," and can be used in physics, computer science and material science. Yi recently graduated from The Harker School and will be attending Harvard in the fall. Yi plans to major in mathematics and physics and hopes to pursue careers in both fields.

Thirteen-year-old Travis Johnson, of Milwaukie, OR, has been studying classical guitar since he was 8. Travis is establishing himself as an award-winning musician, and his portfolio is entitled "Trails of Hope: The Importance of Adding New Music to the Classical Repertoire." Travis is currently home-